Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00982 132225Z ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----132228Z 060547 /75

O R 131923Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5401 INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL LUSAKA 0982

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR RH ZA US

SUBJ: CHONA REQUESTS PRE-BRIEFING ON OWEN VISIT

1. PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT CHONA CALLED ME WEDNESDAY EVENING WITH SOMEWHAT ELLIPTICAL COMPLAINT THAT WE WERE FAILING TO KEEP HIM FULLY BRIEFED ON OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE BRITISH AND THAT HE PREFERRED NOT TO HEAR ABOUT US ACTIVITIES FROM THIRD PARTIES. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE HAD DISCUSSED OUR POSITION TOWARDS THE OWEN VISIT TOGETHER AND THAT I HAD EMPHASIZED OUR FULL BACKING FOR IT. HE SAID THAT AN HOUR'S DISCUSSION (I.E., WITH OWEN) WOULD BE INADEQUATE TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE AT LEAST THE GENERAL LINES OF THINKING IN ADVANCE. THE PHONE CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON OTHER MATTERS AND I MENTIONED TO CHONA THAT I HAD BRIEFED THE FOREIGN OFFICE ON THE 5-POWER DEMARCHE IN PRETORIA. ASKING HIM WHETHER THEIR REPORT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT OR IF HE WANTED ME TO GO OVER THE MATTER WITH HIM ALSO. HE ASKED ME TO SEE HIM TOMORROW MORNING (THURSDAY) AT 3:30. (1:30 AM WASHINGTON TIME).

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2. I HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER MILES. WE ARE AGREED THAT THERE IS AN ADVWNTAGE TO MY INFORMING THE ZAMBIANS DIRECTLY THAT THE PROPOSAL OWEN WOULD ADVANCE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH US AND IN GENERAL TERMS HAD OUR SUPPORT. I WOULD CONFINE THE DISCUSSION LARGELY TO THE US ROLE ALONG THE LINES OF RECENT DEPT

INSTRUCTIONS TO DAR. I WOULD LEAVE DISCUSSION OF THE CONFERENCE ITSELF FOR OWEN EXVIPT WHAT IS ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FROM THE BRIDGET BLOOM ARTICLE.

3. REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF SUCH DISCUSSION BY NIACT IMMEDIATE.

LOW

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Message Attributes

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